

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041842

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: MORO'S AMBITIONS

IN HIS PLATFORM MESSAGE TO THE PARLIAMENT FEBRUARY 19, PREMIER MORO PROMISED WIDESPREAD ADMINISTRATIVE AND SOCIAL REFORMS, AND DEFENDED THE DC DECISION TO FORM A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ROME:

--THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ALREADY CRITICIZED MORO FOR HAVING PROPOSED MUCH MORE THAN IS POSSIBLE, AND EVEN DC SOURCES ADMIT HIS REFORM PROPOSALS WOULD TAKE YEARS TO REALIZE--EVEN WITH A SOLID GOVERNMENT MAJORITY.

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--MOST SOURCES AGREE THAT THE FATE OF THE NEW

GOVERNMENT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE RESULTS OF DC
AND PSI PARTY CONGRESSES IN MARCH. (CONFIDENTIAL)
ROME 2801, 2/20.

2. THE COD WAR: ICELAND WILL TALK IT OVER

FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON TOLD AMBASSADOR IRVING
FEBRUARY 20 THAT HE HAS AGREED TO A SECRET MEETING WITH
THE BRITISH IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, PROVIDED CALM PREVAILS
ON THE SEAS. MEANWHILE:

--AN INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER TOLD THE EMBASSY
THAT PRIME MINISTER HALGRIMSSON HAS AGREED TO
RESIST WITHDRAWAL OF ICELAND'S NATO DELEGATION.

--A UK PROPOSAL THAT OBSERVERS BE PLACED ON ICE-
LANDIC COAST GUARD VESSELS AND BRITISH FRIGATES AND
TUGS WAS PASSED BY SYG LUNS TO THE GOI FEBRUARY 20.

EMBASSY REYKJAVIK NOTES THAT HALGRIMSSON HAS ALREADY
REJECTED THE IDEA OF NATO OBSERVERS AS INIMICAL TO NATO
INTERESTS.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: FEARS THAT JUSTICE MINISTER
JOHANNESSON MAY PULL OUT OF THE COALITION HAVE SUBSIDED
AS TALK OF HIS IMPROPER ACTIVITY IN A CRIMINAL CASE
INCREASES. THUS, THE COD WAR ADVERSARIES MAY GET A
BREATHING SPACE TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES.
(CONFIDENTIAL) REYKJAVIK 243, 2/20 (EXDIS), (CONFIDENTIAL)
REYKJAVIK 247, 2/20 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) NATO 931, 2/20.

3. NEW BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA?

IN THE WAKE OF IAN SMITH'S FEBRUARY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
HE IS CONSIDERING A BRITISH OFFER TO ASSIST IN FINDING A
CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA, FOREIGN SECRETARY
CALLAGHAN DECLARED THAT HMG COULD BECOME INVOLVED ONLY
IF SMITH WERE MORE FLEXIBLE. CALLAGHAN STRESSED THAT:

--CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BREAK DOWN AND GUERILLA
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WARFARE WILL INCREASE UNLESS SMITH GOES A LONG WAY
TOWARDS COMPROMISING ON NKOMO'S PROPOSALS.

--IN VIEW OF INDIRECT MESSAGES REACHING HIM, THE
DECISION WAS MADE TO CONTACT SMITH TO VERIFY
WHETHER BRITISH INVOLVEMENT WAS DESIRED.

EMBASSY LONDON COMMENT: IF SMITH HAS UNDERGONE A CHANGE

OF HEART, IT IS A MIRACLE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS.
ALTHOUGH UNCERTAINTIES FLOWING FROM ANGOLA MAY HAVE
OVERWHELMED HIM, THOSE HERE WHO KNOW SMITH SUSPECT THE
ANNOUNCEMENT IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HIS INSINCERITY AND

DECEPTIVENESS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 2733, 2/20.

4. CHILE: RESENTMENT AND ANXIETY OVER SENATE VOTE

EMBASSY SANTIAGO REPORTS THAT ALTHOUGH THE OFFICIAL
STANCE ON THE KENNEDY AMENDMENT TO BAN MILITARY SALES TO
CHILE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, THE PRESS IS HIGHLY CRITICAL
AND PINOCHET IS ANGRY. OVERALL, THE CHILEAN REACTION TO
THE MOVE IS A MIXTURE OF RESENTMENT OVER HUMPHREY'S AND
KENNEDY'S HARSH COMMENTS ABOUT THE "REPRESSIVE" REGIME
AND ANXIETY THAT THEIR MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS IS UNEQUAL
TO THAT OF NEIGHBORING PERU. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO
1347, 2/20. INGERSOLL

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